

GRIMSDYKE SCHOOL

Learning and Achieving Together

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ISSUE 01

15th SEPTEMBER 2023

Message from Headteacher:

Dear Parent/Carer,

It has been wonderful over the past week and a half to welcome parents and students alike back to the new academic year. I would like to extend a special welcome to the new families and students who have joined us as well as the new members of staff. Welcome to the Grimsdyke family.

Students across the school have settled well to the new routines and expectations after a long summer break. It is lovely to see the students coming through the car park in the morning, smartly dressed in their uniforms and entering their respective gates. It is also pleasing to see the new Reception cohort increasing their time in school, by the time Reception parents read this newsletter they would have finished their settling in period and be starting full time on Monday.

Library and IT Suite Developments...

As most of you were aware we have had a busy summer, with a major development taking place. We have built ourselves an extension to the School Library, which is now double the size of what it was, and a new purpose built space for an IT Suite. Part of this was made possible with support from FOGS who donated the required funds to purchase all of the teaching equipment in the IT Suite.



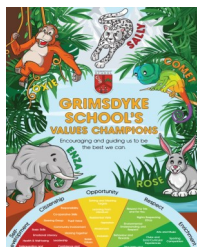
A huge thank you to FOGS for this generous contribution.

We are currently moving all of the Library books back into their rightful place and are looking forward to opening up to the students on Monday. Classes have already been into the IT Suite to enjoy this new resource.

With this in mind I would like to offer parents the opportunity to participate in a short 30 minute tour of the new provisions with myself and Mrs Bhudia. These will take place at 9am each day next week, bookable via Arbor Shop (Tour—Monday/Tuesday etc). If you have any problems booking, please call the school office. I am sure by now your children have told you about this and we look forward to sharing this fantastic development with you.

Grimsdyke School Values - SCORE

Another exciting development which has been driven by the Student Council was the design and launch of our own Grimsdyke Values - we have worked on the design of these over the summer break and are ready to launch them into the classes.



The purpose of these is to underpin the curriculum and experiences at Grimsdyke School. They will assist the students in developing into well rounded individuals with the skills needed to make the next step in their educational journey.

You will find a copy of the class poster within the newsletter. In addition to this, each of the characters also have a character profile sheet to further introduce them to the students. All of these will be present in the classrooms for the teacher and students to refer to while engaging in the curriculum we offer.

MESSAGE FROM HEADTEACHER CONTINUED....

Hot School Meal Provision...

School lunches have continued to develop this year with the introduction of a free school meal for students in KS2. To support this we have increased the number of catering staff which has already resulted in some lovely options coming out of the School Kitchen. This half term we are asking parents to trial meal ordering prior to service with the view that this will become compulsory as we enter the second half of the Autumn Term. As this is a new provision and we are continually looking to improve the process, we have now extended the deadline to pre-book your meal until 6am of the meal sitting. This will mean you can see the choices you have made, pre-book and even change your meal option until 6am on your parent portal. We hope this will give parents more opportunity to talk and discuss the meal options with children before they come to school. Please ensure that your child knows which meal option has been selected to ensure we have sufficient meals for everyone.



As it currently stands, 71% of meals are being pre-ordered and we would like encourage more parents to pre-order their meal choices including homemade packed lunches. If you have any issues around ordering please contact Mrs Dattani on sbm@grimsdyke.harrow.sch.uk.

There are a number of reasons for pre-ordering meals:

- In preparing 500+ meals a day, it allows us to plan effectively and prepare the optimum number of meals each day in a timely manner, thus reducing waste.
- We are required by the LA/DfE to report on the number of meals we are serving on a day to day basis
- It is a great opportunity for parents to talk and discuss the different meals options with their children.

Meet the Teacher...

This week we have successfully delivered "Meet the Teacher" events for each year group from Y1 to Y6. These were a great opportunity to meet the teachers and find out a little bit about the day to day organisation within the year group. If you were unable to make these sessions please don't worry, we will be emailing out the presentations and uploading them on to the website for all of the parents to access.

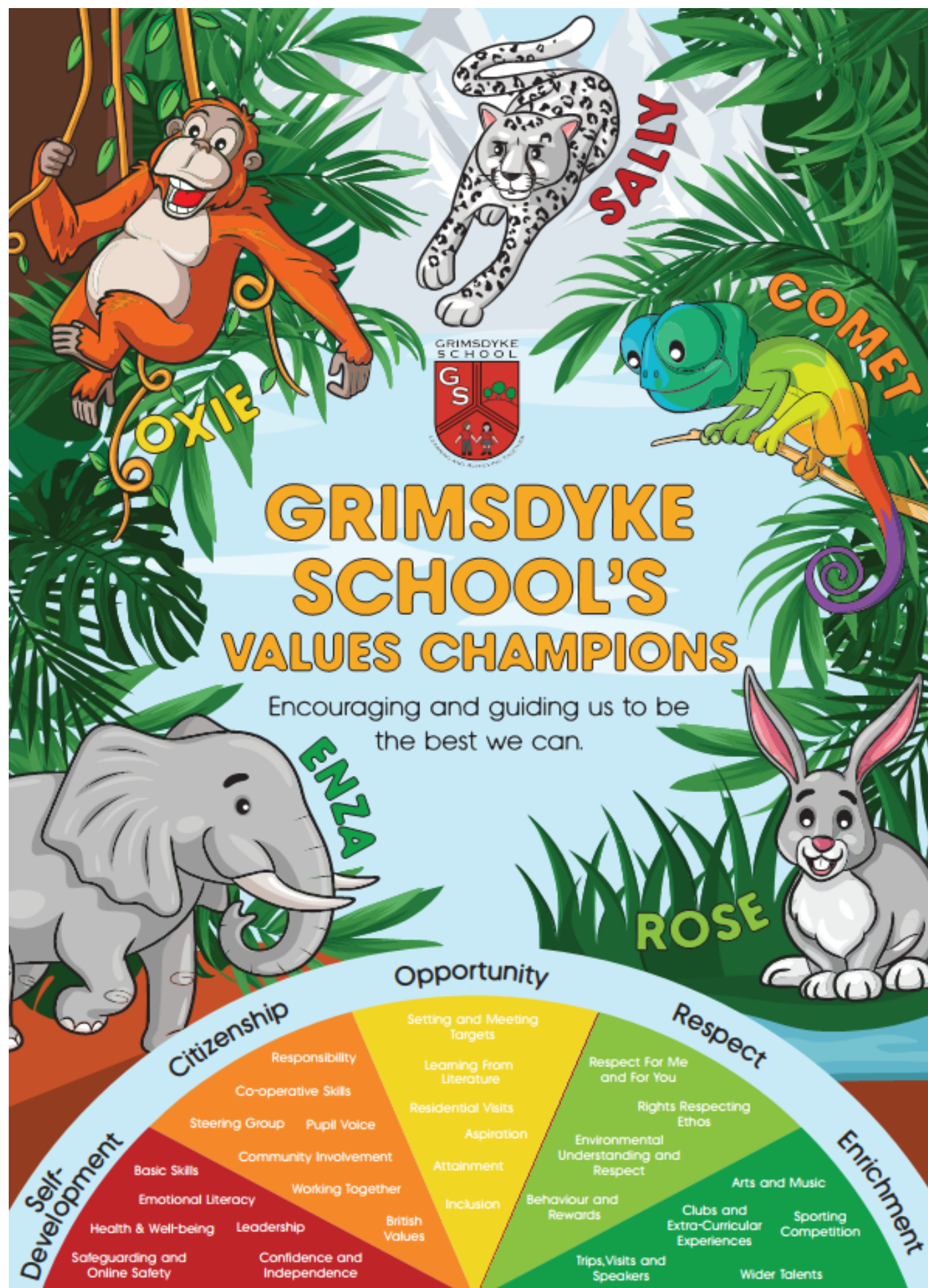
Attendance and Punctuality...

The whole school has made a positive start with both attendance and punctuality. Both of these aspects of school life are vital to promote positive progress and attainment. Students who are often late miss out on vital elements at the start of the school day; a chance to socialise with their friends, preparation for the day of learning ahead or key instructions from their class teacher. The students designated gates will open at 8.30am and close promptly at 8.45am. Additional information about Attendance and Punctuality can be found in the newsletter.

Finally, we all recognise that the school is a busy place, in order to share upcoming events with the parents we use a number of different methods e.g. email, newsletter, Twitter and the A-Frame. If you are not receiving information from the school there could be a number of reasons for this, please check with the school office that the contact details we hold for you are correct. As well as allowing for clearer communication between home and school, it is vital that we hold up-to-date information in case we need to contact you in an emergency.

Kind regards
Mr I Sutherland

Traffic and parking is everyones responsibility.
Do the right thing!





THE IMPORTANCE OF “GOOD” ATTENDANCE



Making the most of every opportunity in order to be the best we can be.

Why your child's attendance at school is important...

Reasons why it is important to ensure your child attends school:

- To learn, develop and improve.
- To make new and foster current friendships.
- To experience new things and new skills with our peers.
- To build self esteem and confidence in our own abilities.
- To prepare for the next step in our educational journey.

Absence has an impact!

100% Attendance
0 days / 0 Lessons missed

95% Attendance
9 days / 45 Lessons missed

80% Attendance
19 days / 95 Lessons missed

85% Attendance
28 Days / 140 Lessons missed

Absence = Missed Opportunity to learn

Missing school creates a greater distance between your child and their learning and friends which increases the feeling and sense of isolation.

Develop a morning routine where preparation is key.

Support your child in taking responsibility for their attendance.

Plan for and book medical and dental appointments outside of school hours.

Don't book holidays during term time - there are 12 other weeks to do this!

How you can support your child to make the most of school ...

Ensure that your child arrives on time and not after.

Take an interest in their learning and praise them for their efforts.

Support the school in ensuring that your child is meeting expectations of behaviour at school.

Talk to them about their learning and their day at school.

Everyday counts - Success at school and in later life starts at school. Creating positive habits for a better tomorrow.

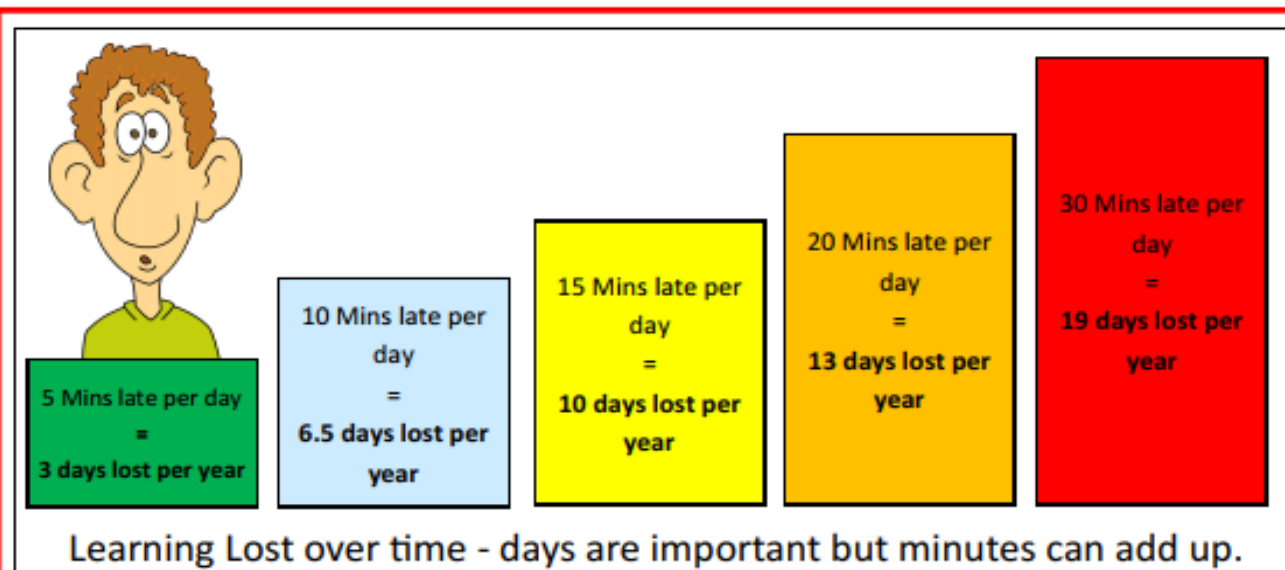




THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING PUNCTUAL TO SCHOOL



As students grow older it will become an expectation placed on them as they enter the working world.



The benefits of being punctual

It shows others ...

- That you **value** and **respect** others close to you.
- That you want to show others what you are **capable** of doing.
- That you **care** about **yourself** and **others**.
- That you are **responsible** for your time and the things you do with it.
- That you have **integrity** and **high expectations** of yourself.

Students have the opportunity to...

- Talk with friends, share experiences and build relationships.
- Discuss homework and check that they are on the right track.
- Practice organising their belongings within a routine start to the day.
- Work with an adult to further support or challenge their learning without being withdrawn from the classroom.

Everyday moment counts - Being punctual means a calm start to the day which fosters a better environment for your child's learning. Do this now and create positive habits for better learning tomorrow.



CURRICULUM IN ACTION

RECEPTION

The Reception children have made a great start to school life and have enjoyed settling into their classes. They all seem very happy and excited to explore their new classrooms.



Our Topic this half term is 'Me and my world'. We are looking forward to learning about ourselves and our families as well as reading lots of stories about making friends.



Over the past few days, we have enjoyed learning about school routines, we have been exploring our outdoor learning area and had our first gymnastics lesson.



"I'll be just two minutes"

Is not a good enough reason to block a driveway!

YEAR 1

We would like to start by saying welcome back! We are very proud of how well the children are all settling into Year 1. We have been very busy learning lots of new faces and routines.

Our topic this half term is **'Home Sweet Home'** and we are going to be looking at houses from the past through to the present day. In Science we have been looking at animal homes and habitats and enjoying the book *'Oi Frog'* and *'Oi Dog'* by Kes Gray and Jim Field. These humorous rhyming stories have been used in reading, writing and phonics lessons, where we have been focusing on word endings and spelling. Can your children think of some rhyming strings for your favourite animals e.g. pig > wig > big > fig etc.?

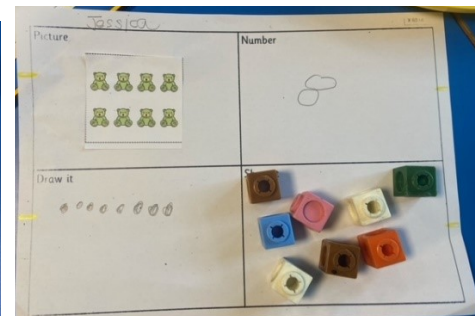
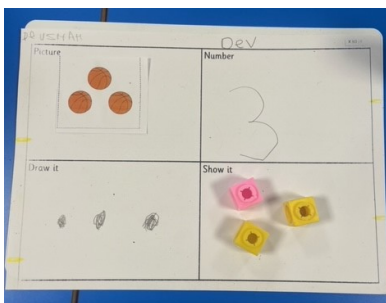
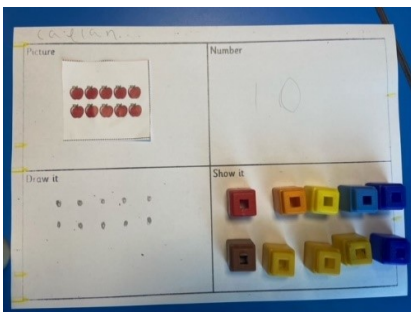
In maths we started with sorting objects and giving reasons for our choices. Many children focused on colour but soon realised that there were many different ways items could be sorted such as size and type. Tasks involved children explaining their choices using the word *'because'*. In art they will be exploring artists work, focusing on buildings.

Please remember to send a hooded coat/jacket into school as children will still go outside if there is a very light drizzle. We like to take learning opportunities outside whenever we can, building on their outdoor play experiences from Reception.

In maths this week, 1ON children were sorting objects. These children decided to sort by colour. Other ways we sorted were by size or object.



In 1DK, children have been learning that numbers can be represented in different ways.



In 1M the children were learning that architects using artist's creations to help them with their own ideas. Here are some children sharing their ideas.



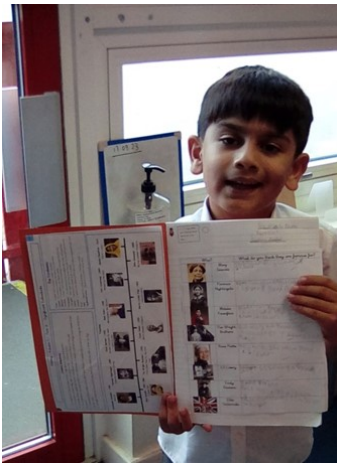
Children have been showing their understanding of rhyming words by matching animals to objects in this week's focus text, *'Oi Dog'* by Kes Gray

YEAR 2

The children are settling in well and becoming familiar with the new routines in Year 2, we are very proud of them. It is great to have them all in their new classes and to see their eagerness to learn. We are looking forward to all of the exciting things we will be doing this half term.

This week we have written summer holiday recounts, been learning about place value in maths, discovering facts about famous people in history and begun our science topic 'living things and their habitats'.

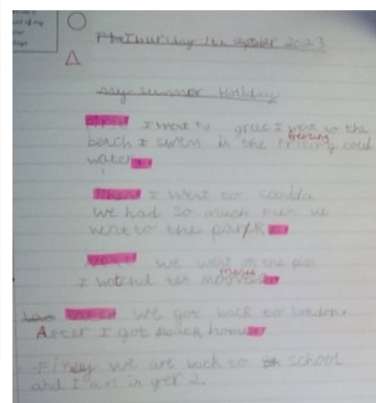
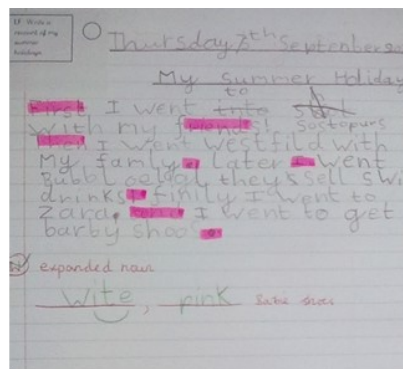
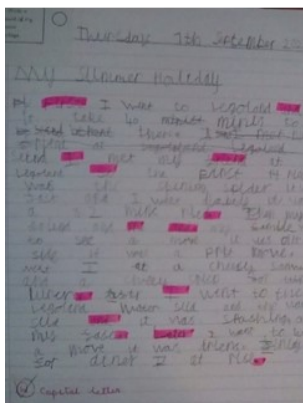
It was lovely to see you all at the meet the teacher presentation. Please look out for the new documents which will be available for you on our school website.



2GK- Children guessed why these people could be famous



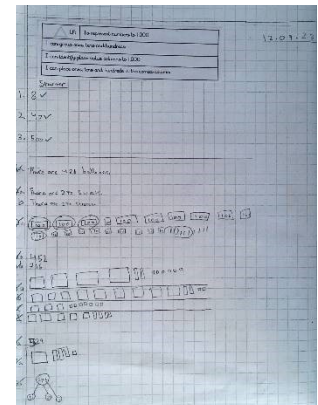
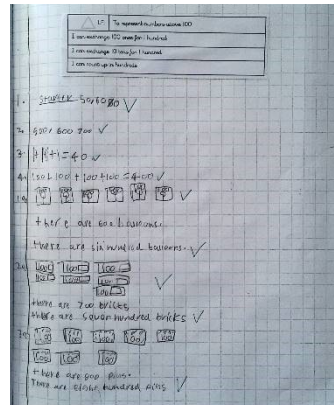
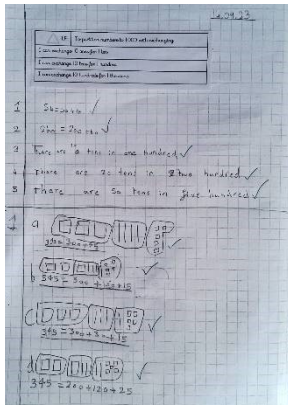
2C- Children on a hunt in science finding things that are living, dead or never alive



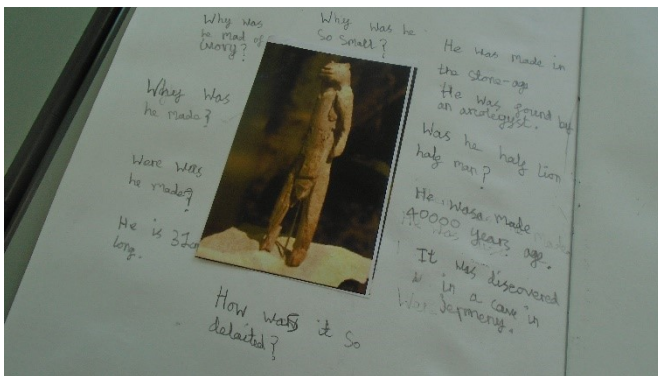
2E – writing recounts of our summer holidays

YEAR 3

Year 3 have settled in brilliantly well to the new academic year - their first in Key Stage 2...



In Maths, we have been revisiting place value and learning how to partition numbers up to 1,000 in to ones, tens and hundreds using exchanging.



In Art, we discovered how to make the colour brown and painted our interpretations of the 'Lion Man' – an animal sculpture, carved from ivory, discovered from the prehistoric ages.



In Music, the children enjoyed the first of their ukulele lessons - from Harrow Music Service - beginning with learning how to hold their instruments and plucking each string in a pattern.

YEAR 4

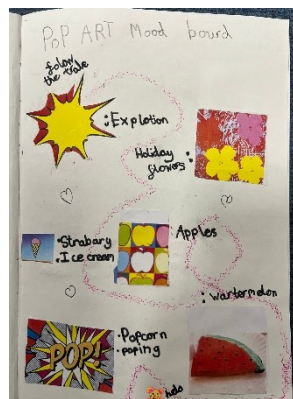
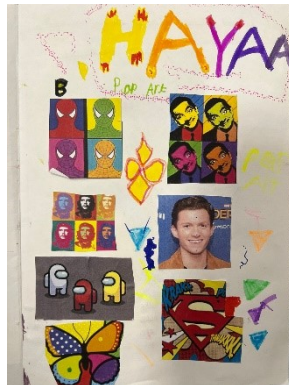
Settling into year 4!

We have been really impressed with the way in which the children have settled into year 4. All three classes are happy and confident which has led to a great start. As we continue to adjust to the new expectations, we have no doubt that the children will form into excellent role models for the lower year groups.

So far this year the children have been introduced to their new topics and completed a range of knowledge organiser quizzes where they have been looking through their knowledge organisers to learn new facts and information.

Art- Pop Art

In art, the children have been exploring the pop art culture and have used their creative skills to create their own mood boards using a variety of materials.



4C – Anna-Maria and Shreya

4M – Hayaa and Sarayh

4H – Jennah and Rhea

Respect Empathy Compassion
Three words can make a huge difference!

Year 5 Curriculum in Action

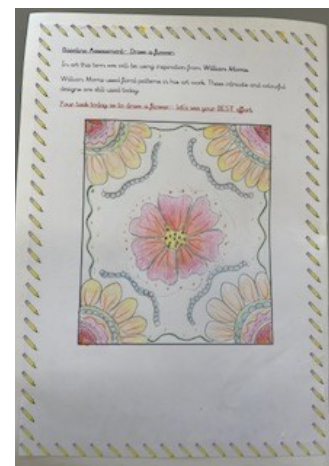
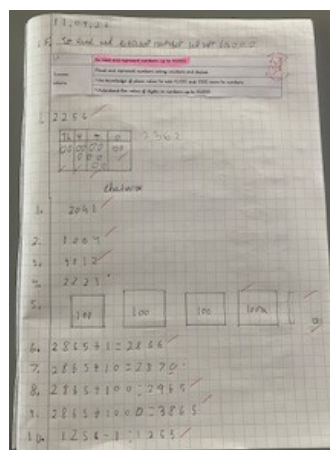
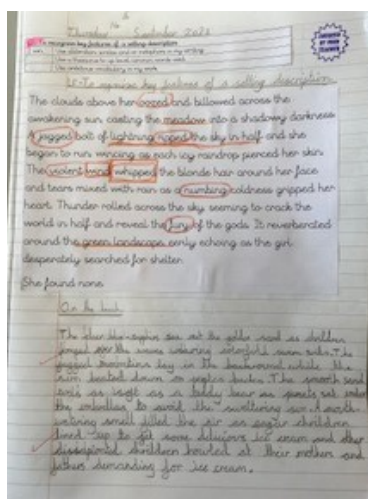


Class Charter-

With each new year group, comes new expectations! One of the first tasks each class undertook was to put their brains together and create the rules for their new classroom. The children chose words that they feel represent the key qualities of a Grimsdyke learner.

Presentation and effort-

The children have all settled in to year 5 extremely well and are producing some fantastic work. As a reflection of this positive start to the year they are already starting to collect merits and certificates.



"I'll be just two minutes"
Is not a good enough reason to block a driveway!

YEAR 6

We have had a fantastic start back at school and a brilliant start to Year 6. We have already started some of our amazing topics for this year. In P.E., the children have started the unit of Health Related Exercise. Pupils recorded their scores, ready to compare them against their scores recorded at the end of the programme in week 6.



In maths, Year 6 children used their understanding of negative numbers to play the Pit of Doom: an exciting negative numbers game that uses the number on the dice to move each player either up or further down the Pit.



Year 6 enjoyed taking their SPAG practice to a whole new level with the new, incredible, state-of-the-art ICT suite.



GRIMSDYKE CALENDAR

Autumn 2023

Wed 20th Sept	Parent Forum –2:30pm
Mon 18th Sept	Tour of New Library/IT Suite
Tues 19th Sept	Tour of New Library/IT Suite
Wed 20th Sept	Tour of New Library/IT Suite
Thurs 21st Sept	Tour of New Library/IT Suite
Fri 22nd Sept	Tour of New Library/IT Suite
Tues 26th Sept	Y5/6 Quadkids (selected only)
Tues 3rd Oct	Parent Consultation
Thurs 5th Oct	Parent Consultation
Tues 10th Oct	Rec/Y6 Height & Weight Check
Wed 11th Oct	Y2 CREW visit—Florence & Mary
Thurs 12th Oct	Y5/6 Cross Country Qualifier (selected only)
Fri 13th Oct	FOGS Halloween Disco
Mon 16th Oct	Y6 Kingswood Residential starts
Wed 18th Oct	Y3 CREW visit—Stone Age
Thurs 19th Oct	Y1 CREW visit—Victorian Houses
Fri 20th Oct	Y6 Kingswood Residential ends
	End of Autumn 1
23rd—27th Oct	Half Term Break
Mon 30th Oct	Back to School—in line for 8:45am
	5BM/5SD visiting Gunnersbury Park Museum
Tues 31st Oct	Individual/Sibling Photos
Thurs 2nd Nov	5CM visiting Gunnersbury Park Museum
Fri 3rd Nov	Y5 Victorian Themed Day
Thurs 9th Nov	Y5/6 Tag Rugby (selected only)
Fri 10th Nov	Remembrance Day Observance

2023—2024 TERM DATES

AUTUMN TERM 2023

Mon 4th Sept to Fri 20th Oct

Half Term : Mon 23rd Oct - Fri 27th Oct

Mon 30th Oct to Thurs 21st Dec

SPRING TERM 2024

Mon 8th Jan to Fri 9th Feb

Half Term : Mon 12th Feb - Fri 16th Feb

Mon 19th Feb to Fri 28th Mar

SUMMER TERM 2024

Mon 15 Apr to Fri 24th May

Half Term: Mon 27th May - Fri 31st May

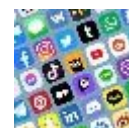
Mon 3rd Jun to Wed 24th Jul

PDD Dates:

- Mon 4th—5th Sept
- Mon 8th Jan
- Mon 3rd Jun
- Wed 24th Jul



Online and social media communication @ Grimsdyke School



School will...

Put all essential information for parents onto our website
Send regular communication to the email address parents share with us
Use the school Twitter account to share additional information
Use text alerts to parents where there is something important to share
Deal with any issues parents raise through the appropriate channels e.g. year group email, email to office or Head teacher

School does not...

Use or recommend any other social media platform is used for school related communication e.g. WhatsApp
Share information or monitor communication via these platforms
Give information to parents to be shared through year group or class parent social media accounts e.g. WhatsApp groups
Allow images or content from school to be used in private social media accounts

School recommends...

Parents share any concerns or queries directly with school staff or via school email accounts
Parents use any social media accounts related to school for networking and support
Parents model good and responsible social media use for their children
Parents monitor their children's use of social media across all platforms including those related to games they might play online